

Examine the Costs of Higher Education

Theme and Level

Theme: Make Plans

Level: Looking Deeper

At a Glance

Students calculate the costs and evaluate the benefits of higher education.

Time: 50 minutes.

Essential Questions

- Given my career goals, does it make financial sense for me to participate in higher education?

Preparation

- Secure computer lab with overhead projector enabled and CIS access
- Retrieve copies of students' Want to Calculate School Costs? from the Getting Started, Make Plans section of Career Plan or have students first use CIS Schools information to identify the costs of attending a specific school if interest
- Make copies of the *Examine the Costs of Higher Education worksheet*, one per student.

Steps

- Show PowerPoint (PPT) Slide 1. Tell students that the goal of this lesson is for each of them to calculate the costs in relationship to the benefits of participating in higher education.
- Show PPT Slide 2. Ask students, "Which would you choose and why?"
- Discuss with students that all choices have costs and benefits. A fast new Lexus will cost thousands of dollars but offer reliability. A classic car will be much less expensive but offer compromised reliability and performance. For important life decisions, it makes sense to weigh carefully these costs and benefits by looking at the long-term benefits of your choices in conjunction with the personal and financial costs.
- Tell students that this activity will help them weigh factors, like they would when buying a car, and calculate the costs and benefits of attending school for a program of interest.
- Show PPT Slide 3. Review the worksheet with students.
- Show PPT Slide 4. Demonstrate the process with the sample worksheet.
- Assign students to complete steps 1-4 and provide 15-20 minutes for students to complete these calculations.
- Show PPT Slide 5. Ask students to discuss their answers to these questions, sharing their results and thoughts in groups of four. (Student will gain additional ideas from listening to their peers.)
- Ask volunteer students to share their thoughts with the full class.
- Show PPT Slide 6. Ask students to answer the questions in the text boxes at the end of the worksheet then transfer these to their CIS portfolios, in the Looking Deeper: Make Plans, Financial Plans section of Career Plan.

Variations and Accommodations

- Students needing special assistance should be partnered with a helpful class member for this activity.
- Worksheet could be completed outside class, allowing parent/guardian input, assistance, and support.
- Remind students that these plans need to be updated as they reach 12th grade, as college costs typically increase annually.
- Sharing student calculations plans with younger students to promote financial planning.

Assessment

Use the *Examine the Costs of Higher Education Scoring Guide* to evaluate student work.

Portfolio

Students enter their reflections about what they learned in the **What did you learn about yourself from the financial research you just completed?** text box within the Looking Deeper: Make Plans section of Career Plan.

Materials

Computer lab with overhead projector and CIS access

[Examine the Costs of Higher Education \(PPTX\)](#)

[Examine the Costs of Higher Education Scoring Guide \(PDF\)](#)

[Examine the Costs of Higher Education Scoring Guide \(DOCX\)](#)

[Examine the Costs of Higher Education \(PDF\)](#)

[Examine the Costs of Higher Education \(DOCX\)](#)

Goals and Standards

Common Core State Standards

- English and Language Arts Career Anchor: Reading Informational Text
- English and Language Arts Career Anchor: Writing
- English and Language Arts Career Anchor: Speaking & Listening
- Mathematical Practice: Use Appropriate Tools Strategically

National Career Development Guidelines

- GOAL PS4 Balance personal, leisure, community, learner, family and work roles.
- GOAL CM2 Use a process of decision-making as one component of career development.
- GOAL CM3 Use accurate, current and unbiased career information during career planning and management.
- GOAL CM4 Master academic, occupational and general employability skills in order to obtain, create, maintain and/or advance your employment.

American School Counselor Association

- Career Development

Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding, Evaluating, Applying

American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Mindsets and Behaviors for Student Success

Mindset Standards

- Sense of Belonging in the School Environment
- Understanding that Postsecondary Education and Life-Long Learning are Necessary for Long-Term Career Success

Behavior Standards: Learning Strategies

- Demonstrate Critical-Thinking Skills to Make Informed Decisions
- Apply Self-Motivation and Self-Direction to Learning
- Apply Media and Technology Skills
- Identify long- and short-term Academic, Career and Social/Emotional Goals
- Gather Evidence and Consider Multiple Perspectives to Make Informed Decisions

Behavior Standards: Self-Management Skills

- Demonstrate Ability to Assume Responsibility
- Demonstrate Ability to Work Independently
- Demonstrate Ability to Delay Immediate Gratification for Long-Term Rewards

Behavior Standards: Social Skills

- Use Effective Oral and Written Communication Skills and Listening Skills
- Create Positive and Supportive Relationships with Other Students
- Use Effective Collaboration and Cooperation Skills
- Use Leadership and Teamwork Skills to Work Effectively in Diverse Teams
- Demonstrate Advocacy Skills and Ability to Assert Self, when Necessary